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TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in this day's issue not later than THREE O'CLOCK, so as not to retard the early publication of the paper.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Arrangements have been made to publish The Hongkong Telegraph daily at 4 P.M. Subscribers in the central districts who do not receive their copies before FIVE O'CLOCK will oblige by at once communicating with the Manager.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1883.

Our telegrams to-day from Hong Kong, says the London Standard of September 1st, show that the optimistic spirit in which the French Government and Press have received the news of the Treaty of Anam is not likely to be of long duration. They have, it is true, obtained excellent terms, but from whom? From a Pretender who had no recognised status at the time he signed it, and whose action will be binding neither upon his own people nor upon China. The Treaty, in fact, is of no more valid utility than would be one made with DON CARLOS ceding to France the provinces of Catalonia and Andalusia and a general protectorate over the whole of Spain. Our Correspondent telegraphs that among the Chinese the news of the signature of the Treaty is regarded as in no way modifying the situation, and that the elation at the news of General Bourr's defeat is in no way damped by that of the capture of Hue by the French. So long as the French Government do not allow the Treaty to check in any way their preparation for a serious campaign, the signature which they have wrung from the Pretender at Hue to a surrender of the liberties of the Anamites and the rights of China would have little effect one way or another; but when they suffer themselves to relax their preparations, to abandon the idea of sending out large reinforcements, and to view the matter as practically terminated in favour of France, they are courting fresh disaster for the national arms, and humiliation and discomfiture for themselves. General Bourr and the military men under him must by this time have a fair idea of the magnitude of the task before them, and they set down ten thousand men as the least that are required to carry out the work of clearing away the foes opposed to them in the swamps of the Delta of Tonquin. It is probable that their calculation is based solely upon the knowledge that they have gained of the strength of the foe opposed to them and of the natural difficulties of the country. Should China openly and actively take part in the war, we may be sure that a very much higher estimate would be made. It can hardly be supposed that the French are wilfully trying to force China into a war, but had such been their deliberate intention, they could scarcely have acted in a way more calculated to bring about that end. It is true that a war, begun under a precisely similar pretext and under equally solemn protestations of disinterestedness, in Tunis ended in the annexation of that country, but the Suzerain of Tunis was not in the same position as the Suzerain of

Anam. The Porte could only protest, but China can act, and act efficiently. But to all this the Government of France appear to be deliberately shutting their eyes. They cannot but know that even were China and the Black Flag pirates to suppress themselves and disappear from the scene, a constant stream of reinforcements must be sent out to fill the gaps which the deadly climate is now making in the ranks of the occupying army. The French are skilled manipulators of statistics, and to this moment the total loss of life which the unopposed conquest of Tunis entailed is unknown; but the facts as to the true nature of the country which they have so rashly undertaken to conquer will, sooner or later, be understood by the French people. Cochinchina is a healthy place in comparison to Tonquin, yet a third of the army of occupation die annually. Are the French people prepared to lose from five to ten thousand men in conquering Tonquin in defiance of China, and to sustain an annual loss of another three or four thousand in holding the country? If so, by all means let them proceed with their enterprise. As to the money cost we say nothing, although it will certainly be very large, and without any corresponding advantage in profit. But unless they are prepared to put up with the drain upon their army which the occupation of this pestilential corner of China will entail, the sooner and the more strongly they notify to their Government that they will not permit this Quixotic adventure, compared to which that of Mexico was sensible and profitable, to be carried further, the better for all parties.

TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, October 12th.
RESIGNATION OF THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE.
The Spanish Ambassador to France has resigned.

THE BRITISH TROOPS IN EGYPT.
Sir Evelyn Wood favors the withdrawal of the bulk of the British troops from Egypt.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

THE Dutch steamer *Camorta* is booked for the Cosmopolitan Dock for Monday.

THE French gunboat *Lutin* left here this morning for Hoihow and Pakhoi. We understand she carries special despatches from Admiral Meyer to Admiral Courbet.

ONE of a gang of ear-ring snatchers was committed for trial at the Supreme Court this morning by Mr. Wodehouse, Inspector Rivers having stated that this peculiar class of offence is greatly on the increase in the Colony, Canton being the chief contributor of the operators. It appears there is a regular gang of them at present in Hongkong, and while one performs the actual operation, the others aid in preventing pursuit. Though opposed to special laws for natives, we think that this particular sort of offence should be met by severer restrictive measures than are now in force.

THE Committee of the Hongkong Choral Society are already up and doing. The following is an extract from a circular issued on the 9th inst.—

"It is proposed that the Society should open the season by singing Schiller's 'Lay of the Bell,' composed by Andreas Schlegel. It is hoped that the performance of this popular Cantata, together with vocal and instrumental solos, will make a performance worthy the place of the Society."

The practice will take place in the music room at the City Hall every Thursday at 8 P.M. (closing before seven), commencing directly after the return to the colony of Mr. Piron, probably the 15th inst., but of the exact date due notice will be given.

Those Ladies who are good enough to reply favorably to this invitation will be most anxious to know that the Committee will be glad to receive the names of any Ladies or Gentlemen to whom invitations have not been sent out who would be likely to reply favorably to the same."

It has often been remarked that witnesses have short memories if called upon to testify when their evidence, correctly given, would militate against their interests. A case of this kind occurred recently before a court in Texas.

The events involved in the trial transpired only a few weeks previously, and yet the witness who was believed to be familiar with them in every detail seemed to know little or nothing about them; but the judge was equal to the situation. He ordered a fine of \$300 to be imposed upon the forgetful man, and sent him to prison for sixty days, which had a remarkable effect in refreshing his memory. He promised, if the sentence was remitted, to tell the whole story. This was done, and he delivered himself with volubility.

We note that the attention of the Indian Government has been drawn to a new plant, which is common in southern India, and yields abundant supplies of pure caoutchouc. Its anapocynaceous plant called *Prameria glandulifera*, the native habitat of which appears to be in the forests of Cochinchina, where the liquid juice is often employed in medicine by the Annamites and Cambodians. In China it is called *tuchung*, and is a frequent ingredient in the Chinese materia medica, in the shape of blackened fragments of bark and small pieces of twigs. It is imported into that country from Cochinchina, the price of the bark after being smoke dried being about 20s. the picul (133lb.). When broken, the twigs are seen to contain an abundance of caoutchouc, which can be drawn out into threads as in the East African Landulphias. The plant may be propagated by cuttings, and M. Pierre, director of the Botanic Gardens at Saigon, thinks that it may be planted in forest reserves when the trees are not less than 10 years old, and that an addition may be made to Indian forestry of great economic value.

In Amsterdam the women have succeeded in having clocks placed on the lamp-posts in order to facilitate the return of their husbands at night.

THE prohibition of the importation of Egyptian cotton into Switzerland has called forth many protests. If the authorities persist in enforcing the prohibition, 30,000 persons employed in manufactures must be thrown out of work.

MISS BERRY had a great regard and admiration for Mrs. Siddons—in her public capacity chiefly, it is to be presumed—for the only anecdote told of the great tragedian shows her in a rather naive aspect. Miss Berry, in telling of the sudden demise of a French diplomat, mentioned that he died in his bureau. "Puir gentleman!" said the actress, "how gat he there?"

We note that the Bishop of Melbourne is of opinion that man may love Christ even though he may not believe in the resurrection. We shall soon all be included within the orthodox circle. The boundary of the Christian fold is happily enlarging and enlarging. O, Bigotry, where is thy sting? O, Calvin, where is thy victory? It will presently be admitted that we live in the very centre of space, and in the very middle of eternity!

THE *Scientific Press* says that English shops engaged in the manufacture of the lighter class of steam engines are receiving very few orders for such work. It is also stated that this new falling off in such orders is mainly due to the increasing demand for improved gas engines of small capacity, the manufacture of which is rapidly increasing. The gas engine in England, at any rate, is gradually, but surely, taking the place of the steam engine, where only a small driving power is required.

It is related that an Invercargill (New Zealand) clergyman recently introduced a novelty into his pulpit. During the sermon he produced a human skull, and, holding it up before the audience, addressed it in a pathetic and eloquent manner. The moving appeal seemed to produce a visible effect on the skull, which grined derisively at the whole affair, but the audience remained dry-eyed and unimpressed; and when the result of the collection was audited afterwards, it was found deficient to the extent of several "threepennies."

DR. VIRCHOW, the great German physician, whose fame is wide, has made a sensation in medical circles by giving a Swiss druggist a recommendation for his pills, or a puff for a patent medicine.

The German medical journals condemned Virchow, and a society to which he belonged was also compelled to take cognizance of his violation of professional etiquette. Virchow has replied in a published letter, in which he says he can no longer "belong to a society which undertakes such arbitrary and offensive criticism," and calls the spirit displayed "mean and meddlesome." In other words, this eminent man has arrayed himself against the existing medical code.

A STRANGE scene was recently witnessed in a parish church in the west of England. There was a congregation of about 500 persons, and the vicar preached, referring in his sermon to the joyful festivities in the neighbourhood in honour of the coming of age of the lord of the manor's eldest son and heir. He expressed the opinion that while "my lord" was very generous, it would have been well if he had abstained from giving beer, seeing that so much drunkenness prevailed. This annoyed a member of the congregation of the agricultural class, who publicly asked the preacher what it mattered to him, and said that if they waited for the vicar's liberality they would have to wait a long time.

We heard of a curious case of robbery which occurred last Wednesday night in Gough Street about half-past 8 o'clock, and which has not yet been brought to the notice of the police. Cheong Wai, lately employed as pantryman on the steamship *Bangalore*, was wending his way homeward through Gough Street on the night in question, and had got nearly as far as Circular Quay when two of his fellow countrymen of the footpad persuasion, armed with long knives, bailed him up, one on each side, and requested him to "stand and deliver."

While the two kept Mr. Cheong in a stationery position with the points of the knives in close proximity to his ribs, another member of the gang came out of the darkness, stood in front of the unfortunate victim, and made him fork out. Cheong wore a diamond ring of the value of thirty dollars, a silver watch, and also had some money in his purse. He was "gone through" in the orthodox fashion and afterwards kept standing still until the gentleman with the plunder had vanished down Circular Quay. The two remaining robbers informed Cheong that he must walk quietly along the street with them until told to stop, and added that a single cry for help would result in his having his belly ripped open. The pantyman tremulously obeyed orders, and the two desperadoes got clear off, one up Sing Wong Street and the other up Gough Street, before he found his voice and called out "Police."

There was no member of the force handy, and Cheong, deeming it best to go quietly home, made tracks for his abode by the more frequented and better lit and protected Queen's Road. We have been in Gough Street during the dark hours of the night and it has struck us that this thoroughfare is most inadequately lit and very imperfectly protected. We never remember meeting a policeman in Gough Street during the night, and when it is taken into consideration that many respectable people use Gough Street as a near cut to the Queen's Road before 9 p.m., when the gate is closed for the night, it might be as well if the "able men" who are at present mixing and muddling Government affairs generally, were to place a few lamps along the street and let an occasional policeman take a stroll round there to see that men of the stamp who robbed Mr. Cheong Wai on Wednesday evening last are not lurking about in the dusky darkness for unsuspecting pedestrians who wear diamond rings and carry watches.

C. S. SALMON has published in London a pamphlet on the condition of the British West Indian Islands in which he states that the introduction of Chinese coolies has had a bad effect. Mr. Salmon complains that the natives, who are quite competent and willing to work, are displaced by the wholesale importation of coolies, whose remuneration is fixed by statute, and cannot get proper wages or make a decent livelihood. "If," says Mr. Salmon, "the prosperity of a colony is to depend permanently and solely on a labor not of its own growth, and not permanently resident to the system, there is always the danger of the supply falling short, or being stopped altogether."

A DUEL in which an eminent Parisian pianist was to have taken a leading part is said to have been happily arranged without loss of life or limb on either side. An altercation had taken place at a Paris café between the said pianist and a well-known man of fashion; and it at last became so animated that the latter offered the former his card and accepted one in return. The pianist waited at home the next morning, but heard nothing from his opponent. The day afterwards he met him by chance in the street, and expressed his surprise at what had, or rather at what had not, taken place. "I asked you the day before yesterday," said the pianist's adversary, "for satisfaction, and yesterday I received it." "How so?" asked the pianist, more astonished than ever. "Instead of a visiting card you gave me a ticket for your concert," was the reply. "I went to it, heard you play, and was more than satisfied."

SCENE from a Queensland Municipal Council comedy.—Alderman Jones: "Alderman Brown is a liar and an idiot—yes, a d—d idiot." Alderman Brown: "I will take the sense of the Council as to whether I'm a liar and a d—d idiot." Alderman Robinson: "The Council has no sense to take, which is lucky, as Alderman Brown is such an unmitigated thief that he'd collar anything he could lay his paws on." The Mayor: "I trust the aldermen will keep up the high reputation this Council has always had for decorum in debate. Petty personalities are not within the strict limits of dignified discussion. I need scarcely draw the attention of some aldermen who shall be nameless to the fact that there is a spacious well-fenced yard at the back, and if Alderman Jones thinks he can put a head on Alderman Brown, I'll adjourn this meeting till the matter is amicably but decisively settled; and I'll lay 6 to 4 Jones can't do it."

A TABULAR statement recently compiled, and showing the statistics of products compared with the number of producers, would seem to indicate that California is one of the richest States in the American Union. For example, the value of the products of the current year are estimated as follows:—Wheat, \$36,000,000; wool, \$10,400,000; fruit and wine, \$10,000,000; cattle, \$4,000,000; sheep, \$1,200,000; dairy products, \$700,000; garden produce, \$400,000; fibre, \$200,000; and unclassified products, \$100,000. But to these items are to be added \$200,000,000 as the product of the gold mines of the State, making a total of \$83,000,000 on a population of about 750,000 white inhabitants. The cash capital of the people increased last year \$6,644,773. During the past six years the rate of interest has declined from one per cent. per month, payable monthly, to six per cent. per annum, payable annually—an indication of increased confidence and wealth. The average gross yield of corn and wheat in the Mississippi valley is about \$10 per acre. In California the gross value of cereals is as high as \$15 an acre, while the average in orchard and vineyard culture reaches no less than \$100 an acre.

SAYS the Sydney Bulletin.—What a man wants to do who desires to gain honour and fame in a country township is to make friends with the local editor. If he—the man who desires honour and fame—is friendly with the local publican, this can be easily managed. A gentleman who was recently appointed to the Commission of the Peace in a Western town evidently knew all about this. This is how his friend, the editor, speaks of him:—"As an honest and just arbitrator between man and man, he could not be beaten; then, further down, deprecatingly, yet admiringly, 'in the Petty Sessions branch he would not shine, having too much of the milk of human kindness in his composition; and a plausible rogue, who deserved a severe sentence, would, by telling a pitiful tale, and promising never to do it again, get off with a tenth of his deserts.' We have too many of that sort already; what we want is a few who will make their names a terror to evil-doers." The new Justice of the Peace must feel some pardonable pride in being accounted a plausible rogue. If we were in his place, we know what our friend the editor would feel. But, probably, he is past feeling, and the Journal is editorless by this time.

THE following is a list of the British infantry regiments which have been officially placed on the increased establishment of the army. They include twelve battalions of 950 rank and file as follows:—1st North Lancashire Regt. and 2nd Durham Light Infantry, at Gibraltar; 2nd batt. York-Munster Fusiliers, at Malta; and the 2nd and 3rd Lancashire Regts., 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, 1st East Surrey Regt., and Royal Irish Regt., at Highland Light Infantry, and Oxfordshire Light Infantry, and South Lancashire Regt. All these are quartered at home stations. The list also includes four battalions of 850 rank and file, viz.:—2nd South Yorkshire Regt., and Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 1st Hampshire Regt., and 1st Dorsetshire Regt., stationed in England and Ireland; and four battalions of 750 rank and file, as follows:—1st North Staffordshire Regt., 1st East Kent Regt. (Buff.), 1st Royal Fusiliers, and 1st Cheshire Regt. These are also at home stations. In addition to the above the list includes four battalions of 650 rank and file, viz.:—1st Norfolk Regt., and East Yorkshire Regt., 1st Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and 3rd Prince Consort's Own (Rifle Brigade), in England and Ireland. The remaining regiments at home have strength varying from 300 upwards.

WRITERS on correct English inform us that "had better" is ungrammatical. Thus, instead of "had better do so and so," say, "It would be better if you did so and so." Again: do not say "You had better have gone," but "you would have done better to go," or "have gone." But the New York Sun stoutly defends the expression "had better" as good idiomatical English of ancient origin. Thus, doctors of language disagree.

It is stated that the iron and steel makers of the United States produce annually \$551,543,100 of manufactured products, and use \$319,594,000 of raw material, while the grist mills produce \$505,185,000, and use \$441,541,000 of raw material—that is, grain. But there is a great difference in the number of hands employed and the amount of wages paid. For example, the iron and steel men employ 306,598 hands, and pay \$128,787,000 a year in wages, while the millers employ only 58,400 hands, and pay but \$17,422,000 in wages. The capital invested in the grist mills is \$178,000,000; but that in the iron and steel works is no less than \$405,636,000. Subtracting the value of the manufactured products, it leaves \$64,000,000; deducting from this the \$17,422,000 paid for wages, there is left a sum of \$46,578,000, which represents the yearly profit on \$178,000,000 capital invested, less interest, insurance, wear, and tear. This is more than 26 per cent, while the profits of iron and steel manufacturers whose working expenses are much greater in proportion, and who are in addition liberally protected, are less than 25 per cent, interest, insurance, &c., being deducted from this. Scarcely any manufactures pay so well as those of the millers. With regard to cattle, they have increased so rapidly in the South that South America has now come to be regarded as the land of cheap beef. The Argentine Confederation, with a population of only two to the square mile as against 203 in Belgium, is enormously wealthy in cattle. But the United States also manages to hold its own in this respect. It possesses 36,000,000 cattle, 43,000,000 hogs, and 42,000,000 sheep—in all, in round numbers, 121,000,000 head of live stock.

AN Australian contemporary relates how in the early days of a certain Northern town, two constables who were in charge of that station used to dispense among the Chinese who comprised the bulk of the population a rude and profitable kind of justice which "took well and gave pleasure to all."—at least it gave pleasure to the constables. They used to levy a tax of £2 per week on every Chinaman who ran a fan-tan shop, and ten shillings a head on every one who kept a parlour maid. If any Chinaman failed to "dub up" on Saturday nights, they either seized the fan-tan implements or himself. When they seized the fan-tan tools they kept them till the Chinaman released them, in the meantime taking good care that he did not get a new turn-out and start a fresh shop. But when they seized himself (which was always the quickest way of making him "dub up") they at once proceeded with much solemnity to try him for "gambling without a license."

One mounted a chair, with a bible in one hand and a drawn sword in the other; the other brought up the Chinaman before him in handcuffs and leg-irons; all the revolvers and rifles in the barracks were slung down on the table with an emphasis that used to make the "prisoner" bound up in the air like an old kangaroo; and, amid the rattle of chains and the clash of swords, he would be fined £5, or three months in gaol. His countrymen would then make a collection for him, and pay the fine. In a short time after the Chinaman would be letting off crackers in honour of their countryman's safe return, and the constables would be nudging each other in the ribs over a bottle of brandy in the leading hotel. After the pair were shifted to remote districts, two other officers took their places; and they could not understand what the Chinamen meant by coming to them for "gambling licenses"—well, other licenses; and it was fully twelve months before the sub-inspector saw the joke and began to smell a rat.

THE HONGKONG RACE FUND.

The annual general meeting of subscribers to the Hongkong Race Fund was held in the Hongkong Club yesterday afternoon when there were present—Messrs. T. Jackson, J. Bell, Irving, W. Reiners, and F. D. Sassoon (treasurer), Mr. J. Thurburn (honorary treasurer), Messrs. R. Bassett, Smith, C. Siebel, C. C. Cohen, S. Hughes, H. Z. Just and H. J. H. Tripp (clerk of the course). Mr. Tripp proposed that Mr. Jackson act as chairman of the meeting, which was carried with acclamation. The minutes of the previous meeting, held last October, were then read and duly confirmed.

The annual statement of accounts, prepared by the honorary treasurer, Mr. Thurburn, was then brought before the meeting by the Clerk of the Course, Mr. Tripp, briefly reviewed the statement, pointing out that whereas last year the balance in hand of current account only amounted to \$40,76 we could now show a credit balance of \$356,56, which he considered a very satisfactory state of affairs. It was only right to mention that this great improvement in last year's financial prospects was chiefly due to the new system of not admitting visitors to the colony as members of the Race Fund. In olden times there were very few visitors and they were admitted as members without payment, but of late years the colony had literally swarmed with visitors at race times, so it was found advisable to restrict the old rule, and now visitors had to pay their entrance fees just the same as residents. This, as he had already said, was the chief reason why the credit balance for last year was so large. There was another matter to which he would crave leave to allude. In one of the local papers last season it was remarked that the stewards had been rather niggardly in giving away prizes for second and third ponies in various races, considering the large amount received for entrance fees. Now the amount of entries totalled \$4,931,

and of this \$4,931.30 had been given away in prizes. In addition to this they had given cups to the value of \$698, so that actually they had expended more for prizes than they had received as entrance fees. It must also be remembered that the Race Ball involved a considerable loss to the Fund, the subscriptions amounting to something like \$450, whilst the expenses amounted to \$741.85, leaving a pretty large deficit to be debited against entrance fees. With this loss on the Ball they had paid altogether \$6,071.53 against the \$4,935 received as entrance fees. They commenced this season with \$956.96 in hand.

Mr. Jackson.—There is I see \$9,000 on fixed deposit. Has any gentleman anything to say regarding these accounts?

Mr. Fraser-Smith.—Am I to understand that the whole balance to the credit of the Race Fund amounts to \$956.96?

Mr. Jackson.—Yes; there are the items.

Mr. Fraser-Smith.—But I see here \$9,000. Does this belong to the Race Fund?

Mr. Jackson.—Yes; that is on fixed deposit.

Mr. Fraser-Smith.—Then gentlemen I would suggest that a portion of this large balance be devoted to making several necessary improvements on the race course.

Mr. Tripp.—I may state with regard to this money on fixed deposit that before attempting any great improvements on the race course we must remember that we might be called on at any moment to renew the two grand stands. Both these buildings are in wretched condition, and to renew the grand stand proper would cost a good deal, probably between five and six thousand dollars. I have had to repair it this season on account of the heavy rains, but it is far from being in a satisfactory condition; in fact, I can only say that even with what has been done, it is just kept up.

Mr. Fraser-Smith.—The rebuilding of the grand stand is one of the necessary improvements referred to.

After some further conversation Mr. Jackson proposed, and Mr. Fraser-Smith seconded, that the statement of accounts be adopted, which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Jackson.—Gentlemen, our next business is to elect a committee for the ensuing season. The last year the committee was composed of Messrs. B. Ryrie, F. B. Johnson, A. Cohen, J. Bell, Irving, W. Reiners, H. Z. Just, C. C. Cohen, F. D. Sassoon, W. H. F. Darby and T. Jackson. As Mr. Darby is not here at present I think it would be desirable to put another working man on the committee. Mr. Noble takes a great deal of interest in the races, he is a good sportsman and would prove a very useful addition, so I would propose to add his name to the list.

Mr. Fraser-Smith.—There are two other additions which might be made with advantage. It is certainly rather anomalous that there should be so few practical racing men on the list of stewards, and I would suggest that in addition to Mr. Noble, Messrs. C. P. Chater and W. Kerfoot Hughes should be elected.

Mr. Tripp.—There is one thing against Mr. Fraser-Smith's suggestion, which is, that the two gentlemen named have so much to attend to in their own stables during training that they would not be able to assist me on the course. We want gentlemen who can help me in matters connected with the course.

Mr. Fraser-Smith.—There are sometimes questions of racing law to be decided by the stewards, and in such cases the assistance of Mr. Chater and Mr. Hughes would be valuable. Besides, they are regular attendants at the course during the training season, and as stewards are not always represented, they would prove very useful.

Mr. Tripp.—Mr. Chater may know a lot about ponies, but I don't think that either he or Mr. Kerfoot Hughes knows much about racing rules. Mr. Fraser-Smith.—That is of course a matter of opinion; however, gentlemen, I only throw out the suggestion and it is for you to decide.

Mr. Jackson.—I don't think Mr. Chater would act if he were elected. I have heard him say that he would not serve as a steward as he had too many ponies to look after.

Mr. Fraser-Smith.—I mentioned to Mr. Chater some time ago that I intended suggesting that himself and Mr. Hughes should be added to the list of stewards, and I then understood him to signify his assent to serve.

Mr. Jackson.—We are electing the committee now, not the stewards.

Mr. Tripp.—It is the same thing, as the committee are always put down stewards.

Mr. Jackson.—At all events I don't think it is altogether desirable to have gentlemen on the committee who are directly interested in the races. I would propose that last year's committee, with Mr. Noble's name added, be elected for the ensuing season.

The names were read over and the proposal was carried unanimously.

It was then proposed by Mr. H. J. H. Tripp, seconded by Mr. Thurburn and carried unanimously, that His Excellency the Governor, General Sirgert, Admiral Wilkes, Commodore Cumming, Colonel Walker, R.E., Colonel Crawford, R.A., Colonel Parrall and Colonel Hobson (the Buffs) be invited to act as Stewards for the Race Meeting of 1884.

Mr. Tripp then suggested that suitable dates for our next meeting would be, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday the 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th February, the last named day being the "Off-day," and this appeared to meet with the approval of all present. The annual race ball was fixed for the following Tuesday.

Mr. B. Hughes suggested that the Stewards might do something to keep order and to superintend matters generally on the "Off-day" the same as was done on the regular race days. The Clerk of the Course in reply remarked that the Stewards had quite enough to do on the three official days, and pointed out that as the fourth day's racing was of a purely informal character, stewards were not necessary. Any penalties as being imposed as a winter, it would not be advisable for the Stewards to act in the manner suggested.

Mr. Fraser-Smith.—If this proposal is to be run on the fourth day I trust the Stewards will see their way to putting it on the regular programme of the meeting.

Mr. Tripp.—I will say, and arrange to have the entries for the race placed closed a week before the race, and place them on the regular programme, even though they are run on the fourth day.

The Clerk of the Course then gave some important information regarding contemplated alterations and improvements in the race course. Mr. Leigh had fully surveyed the course and had given the opinion that some of the objectionable sharp turns on the track might be removed, and the course made more of a circle. The turn at Wong-kei-shing was a dangerous one, and it was suggested to remedy this by moving the course back some fifty feet, which would also necessitate the training course being altered.

Mr. B. Hughes inquired whether the proposed alterations were to be carried out this year, and Mr. Tripp replied that it would be impossible to commence until after next races.

